

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Transitional Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Barrett	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaight	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

November 25 & 26, 2023

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

Today at Kountze Memorial

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's Bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church.



Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Albert's 90th birthday given by the Grage Family

Kountze Café

9:30—11:00 AM

Join us each Sunday for breakfast. The suggested donation is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger for the hot breakfast and a free-will donation for the continental breakfast.

Faith Formation

Children's Choir

**9:15 AM (following 9:00 AM Children's Blessing)
Grades K-6**

Join Barb Carlsen on the 2nd floor in the Sunday School Music Room

Sunday School

10:10 AM

Ages 2 years-6th Grade

Join us in the 2nd Floor Sunday School Rooms.

Youth Forum

Lower Level Youth Room

This week: Games

Next Week: Advent Fair

Adult Forum

Join us at 10:10 AM on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. **This week:** Fellowship

Next week: Advent Fair

This Week at Kountze Memorial

November 26 Sunday

Christ the King
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour

November 27 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

November 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
12:30 PM Circle 3

November 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation @ St.
Timothy

November 30 Thursday

12:00 PM Circle 4
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 1 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 2 Saturday

Homebound Communion
9:00 AM Clinic Board Meeting
9:30 AM Decorate for Advent
2:00 PM Diggins/Drickey Wedding
5:00 PM Worship

December 3 Sunday

Advent 1
Homebound Communion
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
Rehearsal
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
9:15 AM Children's Choir (K-5)
9:30 AM Kountze Cafe - Breakfast
10:00 AM Norma's Nursery Open
House
10:00 AM Advent Fair

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Decorate for Advent

Saturday, December 2

9:30 AM

You and your family can be part of creating an inviting atmosphere that will inspire hope, love, joy, and peace in our community by helping to decorate for Advent. No special skills are required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to this joyful project. Join us!

Norma's Nursery Open House

Sunday, December 3

10:00—11:00 AM

Stop by the Nursery sometime between 10:00 & 11:00 AM for our nursery renaming event.

Annual Advent Fair

December 3

10:00 AM - Noon

Join us in making a variety of Christmas decorations including an Advent wreath, Christmas cards, an Advent prayer placemat, an ornament, and more. There will be activities for the children and a photo booth for all.

Advent Meals & Worship

December 6, 13, and 20

Lunch: 11:00 AM - Noon

Supper: 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Worship: 6:30

- Mark your calendars and join us for Advent meals followed by Worship.
- We will have a vegetarian option at each of the meals.
- All meals are free will offering.

Cards with Friends

Thursday, December 7

2:00 PM

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time together playing cards. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share.

Annual Merry Tuba Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 10

3:30 PM

Held at Kountze Memorial

Bring your friends, the concert is free and open to the Public. It will be a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

**Progressive Dinner and
White Elephant Christmas Gift Exchange
All Middle and High School Youth
Sunday, December 10 at 5:30 PM**

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. Bring a White Elephant Gift to exchange. We will be transported to 4 homes in the area for Appetizers, Salad, Main Dish with Side, and Dessert. RSVP ASAP with the Church Office so plans can be made for a fun evening together with other church members willing to host our group. It will be an evening to remember.

**Candlelight Carol Service
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 16
Prelude begins at 4:40 PM
Service 5:00 PM**

**Reception Following
Nursery Care will be Provided**

The annual Candlelight Carol Service has become a beloved tradition at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. We hope that you, your family, and friends can join us for this special service of sacred scripture and poetry, congregational carols, handbells, brass, organ, and piano. Please join us following the service for a lovely reception.

**Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 17
9:00 AM**

We are excited again, to hear our children sing and tell the story of Christ's birth. The children (grades

prek-6) will present the Christmas story with music. The children should arrive by 8:25 that morning. The children in kindergarten through sixth grade will have a special practice on Saturday, December 16 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Carlsen at carlsen.barbara18@gmail.com.

**ELCA Young Adult Gathering
Young Adults (19-25-year-olds)
July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans**

An ELCA Young Adult Gathering will take place at the same time as the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Each group will have separate daytime offerings followed by a joint Evening Program. As this is a new event, plans are still being made. We hope you will consider attending this event. Please contact Pr. Shari or the church office if you are interested in attending. For more info or to register, go to

<https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/young-adult-gathering>

Kountze Food Pantry

This month the Kountze Food Pantry is collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes and floss, or flossing picks. Please place donated items in the marked box in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone for donating soup in October! We can always use more grocery bags. We use both plastic and paper. Please sign up with the link below if you would like to serve at the Kountze Food Pantry.

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Too hot? Too cold?

Thanks to a grant from endowment our building management system that controls the heating and air conditioning in many parts of the building has been replaced this week. Please bear with us as we make adjustments to make sure temperatures are more stable and comfortable for everyone.

Statement of Intent cards and magnets can be found in the back of the Nave and in the Fellowship Hall at the Welcome Desk.

GO AND BE



Attendance & Giving

Saturday: 36
Sunday: 9:00: 162 **11:00:** 61
Wednesday: 12:15 * Conf: *
Total: 259
Streaming: 50
Pantry Guests Served: *
Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25
Offering: *

*Not available at time of printing

Jesus calls his followers to acts of mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats
Monday	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	God, the true shepherd
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 5:1-11	Spiritual gifts
Thursday	Joshua 24:14-28	Always be faithful to the Lord
Friday	1 Peter 5:1-11	Tending the flock of God
Saturday	Psalms 95:1-7a	Worship and obey the Lord
Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	When the Son of Man appears



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Psalm 95:6-7a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us eyes to see you and to worship you with our love and service to others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for creating the earth to be fruitful and satisfy our needs for food and shelter, community and peace. In the name of Christ, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Christ the King give you peace and courage for each day.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some duties a shepherd has to do to care for the sheep?
- Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. Why do you think he is called this?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:31-46.

In the ancient Near East, the reference to shepherd (v.32) was a reference to the king, the one responsible to care for the people. In the Old Testament, the kings of Israel and Judah usually failed their role as the shepherd who ruled with justice for the poor. In Ezekiel, the Lord takes back the role of king and shepherds the people to safety with the promise of a new shepherd king in the line of David. For the church that shepherd is Jesus, the Son of Man. He comes as judge and as shepherd to separate sheep from goats, the ones who do the will of God and those who do not. The surprise in this reading is that the sheep don't even know they are sheep. They ask when it was that they acted with compassion as though they were serving the Son of Man. The surprising joy is that acts of love and mercy happen even—or especially—when the sheep (followers of Jesus) are not aware of their actions that love others. Following Jesus leads to a life filled with acts of compassion for the poor, the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned.

Discuss: Where have you seen God's kingdom through people's actions that show love and mercy?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, we pray for your reign to be visible in us that the world may know your care for the poor and others in need through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve the stranger and others who need care?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

November 26th is the last Sunday in this church year. Think or talk about your involvement in the ministries of the church in the past year. Consider these questions: What were the highlights? In what ways did you grow in your faith? How did you share your faith with others? Take a moment to consider in what ways you will serve in the congregation and the community in the coming year.

Pray: **God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 95:7a)**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37